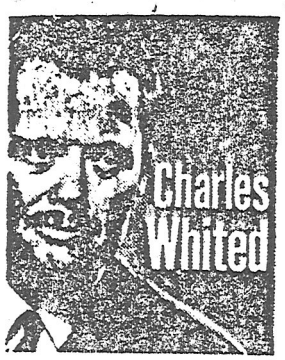

The Talk Shows: Is There a Line?

Radio talk shows: where do they draw the line?

Or should they?

The point comes up in the wake of a shocker aired a few days ago by WKAT on the Bill Smith show.

HERE WAS this guest, Annie Patterson, on the mike talking over 5,000 watts about her wild idea.

President Johnson, the woman declared, as vice president arranged the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. She said she got the word down in Mexico.

Well, the fellows at the station interview a lot of way-out people, but they weren't prepared for this one. And then the phones lit up and callers drove them crazy for the rest of the day.

A reader of The Herald was indignant.

"I DO NOT hold with censorship in any form," wrote Jay Arnet of Coral Gables, "but I do believe in individual responsibility.

"This woman was given plenty of air time, and although the talk-man did not agree with her she monopolized most of the program. If there ever was yellow journalism, we have its counterpart in yellow radio."

Okay, how does that grab you, Sid Levin?

Levin is the 34-year-old general manager and executive vice president of WKAT. The station is far and away the gabbiest on the Miami airwaves.

OTHER LOCAL open mike men, such as the acid-tongued Alan Courtney of WIOD, or Art Greene of WAME, take only a fraction of their stations' programming.

By contrast, WKAT is unning open phone talk hows 17 hours a day, not ounting Sundays.

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